

could never happen again in the United States of America. And next fall our friends on the other side of the aisle are going to say, no, no, we want to repeal that ban. We want to continue that practice of the insurance industry being able to kick people off of their insurance because they got sick.

We're going to be saying, hey, your kid that just went on the insurance rolls because they were 24 years old and we allowed that to happen because of the health care reform bill. Our friends on the other side are going to be saying they want to repeal that provision that allows young people to stay on their parents' insurance until they're 26 years old.

Very clear. The family in my district, your district in New York, your district in California, your district in California, all across the country, those families of four making \$50,000 a year who are going to get a \$5,800 tax cut that we put in because of this reform, our friends on the other side are going to say we want to run this election about repealing that tax cut.

Same with the 35 percent and then up to 50 percent tax cut for small businesses. Our friends on the other side are going to say, we want to repeal that. This is a referendum on health care reform. I say I want to have that debate day and night for the next 6 or 7 months because that is a debate, Mr. Speaker, we can win and we shall win. The only issue now is a lot of people do not know all of these benefits that have been itemized here tonight. They will know in the next 6 months.

I yield back to my friend.

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Mr. GARAMENDI. We've got about 6 minutes left, so let's each take about 2 minutes.

Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you very much for bringing us together.

There is so much to talk about with this bill, but you know, as what has been mentioned with Representative RYAN, a family living on an annual income of \$50,000 gets the \$5,800 tax credit. Well, you know, it doesn't end there. It goes all the way up to the threshold of \$88,000 for annual household incomes whereby families are going to receive some sort of benefit.

This is an extraordinary opportunity to provide for middle-income America, to provide income for them so that they can promote wellness within their individual families. Absolutely tremendously strong idea. It empowers the middle class, the working families of this country.

It empowers our small businesses. Representative WATSON talked about the benefits in her district to small businesses. In my district, between 14,000 and 15,000 businesses will be given the opportunity for tax credits to help purchase the employer-based plans for their given employees. And don't they prosper from a sound and well workforce? I think that is impor-

tant. They also will have the benefits of shopping within an exchange if they so choose.

So there is all of this effort made to make certain that we advantage people in a way that will promote wellness, provide health care in an affordable and accessible fashion.

We also do know that the benefits to our senior community, with all of the strengthening of Medicare without reducing those benefits, promoting their pharmaceutical needs being addressed fully in the near future so that they are not avoiding those pharmaceuticals simply because they cannot afford them; that is bad policy.

So what we have here is freedom galore, freedom galore to be able to stay well, to stay strong, to grow and prosper, to be hopeful. This is a golden moment. This is a wonderful moment that we will share tomorrow as we come out to this floor and address this health care reform measure.

And thank you Representative GARAMENDI for bringing us together. Thank you for the opportunity.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I appreciate your passion on this no less than Mr. RYAN's.

Ms. WATSON. And very quickly I, too, want to add my thanks to my colleagues for providing this time.

I want to remind our country that in this legislation, we have community health centers. And I remember in the beginning some people were very disturbed because their districts—and they feel that they have areas that are so remote, how will this health insurance plan cover them.

They need to know that nationwide the legislation will provide \$11 billion in new funding for these health clinics. And they'll be in rural areas; they will be in suburban areas. Those people who are not in the urban core will be provided with health care. And if the community health centers in the district, your district, receive the average level of support, these centers will receive millions of dollars in new assistance so that we can cover as many of the uncovered as possible.

And I want to remind the viewers that if you have insurance and you like your insurance, you can keep your insurance. If you love your doctor or your health care provider, government does not come in between that relationship. And I want the viewing public to know that.

And then I want to end by saying there is no deficit spending. I sat in my office and heard the opposition say, It's going to rob my children, you know, and, it's going to wreck their children, and it will rob them because they'll have to pay off the deficit.

The cost of health care reform under the legislation proposed is fully paid for in large part by eliminating, and you mentioned it, waste, fraud, and abuse and excessive profits for private insurers.

The legislation will reduce the deficit by over a hundred billion dollars over

the next 10 years and by about \$1 trillion over the second decade.

So thank you, Representative GARAMENDI for allowing us this time to set the record straight.

Onward to victory.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you very much, Representative WATSON. It has been a joy to work with you these 35 years and work with you this evening.

This is a historic moment. This is something you and I and many others have worked to try to provide health insurance for all Americans. Some 32 million Americans will receive health insurance as a result of this. There will be the incredible tax cuts for working men and women. For small businesses, they, too, will receive significant tax credits so that they can provide insurance for their employees. And there will be programs to promote wellness. There will be programs to create better information technology so that we don't have to waste money every time you present yourself with a different doctor. And you have the freedom to choose your own health insurance company, and your health insurance company no longer has their freedom to deny you benefits and coverage. There are serious insurance reforms in this.

Finally, I just want to add, I have seen this sign so many times around the Capitol, so many times, and it says, "We the people." Those are the first three words of the preamble of the United States Constitution. And it goes on to say, "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union." That is what we're doing here. A more perfect union within our families so that we don't have to fear bankruptcy and the loss of health because we have no health insurance; a more perfect union in our communities so that everyone in our communities has health care and access to health insurance.

It establishes justice.

Thank you so very much.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAFFEI). Members are reminded that it is not in order to address remarks to those outside the Chamber.

TEXAS SAYS "NO" TO HEALTH REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BURGESS. I came to the floor of the House tonight because I want to share with the House a letter I received from the Texas Medical Association.

The letter says, "On behalf of the nearly 45,000 physician and medical student members of the Texas Medical Association—and on behalf of our 25 million patients—we are writing to express our opposition to the health reform bill (H.R. 3590) that will be before